



## Last Active Duty Vietnam POW Retires

By AIRLANT Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) — Vice Adm. Joseph Mobley, the last active-duty Vietnam POW, turned over command of Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, April 12 to his relief, Rear Adm. Michael Malone, in a ceremony on board USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71).

Mobley was held in Vietnam as a prisoner of war for almost five years, from June 1968 to March 1973, after his A-6 "Intruder" was severely damaged in combat and he was forced to eject over enemy territory.

When Mobley was shot down, he was assigned to Attack Squadron 35, embarked aboard USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65), serving his first tour of duty after graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1966. USS *Enterprise* is the Navy's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

Over the course of his naval career, Mobley witnessed many dramatic changes in the Navy. Most significant of those changes is the "all-volunteer force" which has created the most professional soldiers, Sailors and airmen in the history of the

country. Additionally, tremendous developments in command, control, computers and communications technology, along with the country's investment in the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier fleet, has totally transformed the Navy from that of yesteryear.

Among the many personal decorations awarded to Mobley are the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, Bronze Star Medal, two Purple Heart Medals and the POW Medal.

## Advancement Opportunities Increase for E-8s

By Chief Journalist Milinda D. Jensen, CNP Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — There is good news for the senior chief community regarding the latest advancement results; certain rates have doubled in advancement opportunities. But there is better news. Overall, the E-8 advancement percentage rate increased from the previous cycle.

Quota driven, FY02 was a prime time to advance to senior chief cryptologic technician, M branch (CTM), where quotas and advancement more than doubled from the year before. Mess management specialist (submarine qualified) tripled its advancement rate with nine new senior chiefs compared to three from the previous advancement year.

Last year, 15,545 chiefs were eligible to advance to senior chief, but 1,850 were advanced, or 11.9 percent. This cycle, 12,790 were eligible and 1,600, or 12.5 percent were advanced to senior chief.

## Sea Legs



USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) conducts high-speed steering and maneuvering checks after a seven-month maintenance period. Photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class James A. Farrally, II

# CREDO is the Navy's Best-Kept Secret

By Journalist 1st Class (SW) Scott Sutherland, Naval Station San Diego Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO (NNS) — All of us, at one time or another, have had to step away from the rat race and smell the roses. If you feel the rats are winning the race, maybe CREDO can help you come out smelling like a rose.

CREDO is the acronym for the Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation, a Chief of Naval Operations-sponsored retreat program that helps improve job performance and enhances quality of life for active-duty service members and their families. CREDO was instituted in 1971 to combat the drug culture.

Naval Base San Diego is home to the first of 10 Navywide CREDO programs. CREDO chaplains and team members work with participants in retreat group settings to achieve positive results through supportive interaction. The 72-hour retreats are designed to improve relationships, resolve issues and develop personal and spiritual resources — a powerful experience that often has lasting, life-enhancing impact.

CREDO San Diego offers three retreats: personal growth, spiritual growth and marriage enrichment.

Personal growth retreats enable people to understand themselves better, while developing new perspectives in their relationships with God, their families, friends, shipmates, the service and the broader world. Before participating in a marriage enrichment or spiritual growth retreat, a personal growth retreat is recommended.

Spiritual growth retreats emphasize faith, focusing on renewing hope and developing new spiritual resources.

Marriage enrichment

retreats help couples become closer by strengthening emotional, physical and spiritual parts of their marriage. It also shows couples ways to keep their marriage growing and to handle inevitable conflicts.

Of all the aspects of the three retreats, self-reflection is what Religious Programs Specialist 1st Class (Fleet Marine Force) Joe Compton feels reaches out and gets people's attention. The CREDO San Diego team member, a native of Lamar, Mo., said self-

reflection allows participants to first re-evaluate their lives, and then focus on things that are most important to them.

"Without the distractions of their usual environments and daily routines," Compton said, "participants can make clear determinations about where they are, and where they want to go with their lives."

Commanders have found CREDO helpful for all service members, including marginal to good performers with unused potential. CREDO team

members' goals are to help participants grow toward increased functional ability, acceptance of responsibility and spiritual maturity.

According to Lt. Rene Porter-Stewart, the acting assistant director of CREDO and a member of the naval station chaplain's staff, they also offer "team building" workshops, which are four-hour training sessions to assist a command, department, division

See **CREDO**, page 3

## Navy/Coast Guard Sailors Finish Unitas Exercises in the Caribbean

By Lt. j.g. Corey Barker, NAVSOUTH Public Affairs

CARTAGENA, Colombia (NNS) — Ten ships from the United States, Colombia, Chile and France returned to the port city of Cartagena, Colombia, April 14 after successfully completing the at-sea portion of Unitas 2001 exercises in the Western Caribbean Sea. Approximately 2,000 Sailors and coastguardsmen participated in the 42nd annual exercise, which began April 2 and concluded in Cartagena, Colombia on April 17.

Hosted this year by the Colombian navy, the Caribbean phase of Unitas 2001 focused on high-tech surface, air and undersea naval training exercises designed to strengthen multinational cooperation and interoperability in support of the U.S. policy of engagement in South America. These exercises presented a unique opportunity to improve the high level of operational readiness and teamwork enjoyed by the United States and South

American naval forces.

Rear Adm. Kevin P. Green, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command, commanded the Unitas Task Force. Headquartered at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, Green is the naval component commander to Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, commander in chief, U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) based in Miami, Fla.

The Mayport-based destroyer USS *O'Bannon* (DD 987) commanded by Cmdr. Bruce W. Nichols, acted as U.S. flagship with embarked commander, Destroyer Squadron 6, Commodore (Capt.) Bill Marlowe and staff.

The U.S. Caribbean Phase Task Group also included the Norfolk-based guided missile frigate USS *Estocin* (FFG 15) and U.S. Coast Guard cutter USCG Northland (WMEC 904) homeported in Portsmouth, Va.

Northland, commanded by

Cmdr. Bret K. McGough, played a significant role in Unitas as the expert in counter-drug, maritime interdiction and rescue assistance training, working directly with the Colombian coast guard and navy exchanging theories, ideas and time proven procedures.

U.S. Navy P-3C Orion patrol aircraft from Patrol Squadrons (VP) 5 and 11, based in Jacksonville, Fla., participated extensively in the exercises, as did Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 46, Detachment 6, based in Mayport, Fla.

In addition to a rigorous training schedule, U.S. Sailors and coast guard personnel participated in community relations projects at two local elementary schools with sailors from the Colombian navy. The schools received desperately needed repairs and school supplies that were donated by all three U.S. ships, embarked

See **Unitas**, page 4

# Wisconsin Open to the Public at Norfolk's Nauticus

By Journalist 1st Class David W. Crenshaw, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) — At 57, most Americans are looking forward to their retirement years. The battleship USS *Wisconsin* (BB 64) celebrated its 57th birthday by once again being called to service.

But unlike its valiant service in World War II, Korea and the Persian Gulf, the salvos the proud juggernaut will be firing during this tour won't be on enemy beaches, but in the hearts and minds of the tourists and Sailors — past, present and future — who walk its famous teakwood decks.

The battleship officially became the main attraction at the Hampton Roads Naval Museum in downtown Norfolk, Va., April 16, 57 years to the day after the ship was first commissioned in Philadelphia. After months of preparation, the Monday morning opening day drew more than 6,000 visitors to the downtown waterfront to see a grand piece of naval history.

"The Navy is important to Norfolk," said Rep. Bobby Scott, whose district includes part of

the Norfolk waterfront, "and there's nothing like having a battleship parked downtown to make that point." Scott, as well as Rear Adm. Christopher W. Cole, commander of Navy Region Mid-Atlantic; and Norfolk Mayor Paul D. Fraim, were just some of the dignitaries on hand to officially open the brow of the famous warship to the public.

For the past several months, the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, as well as Nauticus, where the naval museum is located, had been closed preparing for the big day that would mark a significant change in exhibits. Both facilities shifted their focus to spotlight the warship now berthed next door. With the opening of the battleship *Wisconsin*, both Nauticus and the Hampton Roads Naval Museum have re-opened their doors to the public.

"We've been working very closely with the crew of the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, and it's been a tremendous collaboration and effort to bring these exhibits to completion,"



USS *Wisconsin* (BB 64)

Photo by Photographer's Mate 1st Class Tina M. Ackerman

said Dave Kohnen, curator of the battleship *Wisconsin* exhibits for Nauticus.

The corridor that connects *Wisconsin* to the Hampton Roads Naval Museum and to Nauticus serves not only as access to the ship but also as an enduring symbol of the partnership between the Navy and the city of Norfolk.

But it didn't take a bridge to convince the Navy's Mid-Atlantic Region commander of the bond

between Sailors and the citizens of Norfolk.

"You can't separate the Navy and the city of Norfolk," said Cole in an interview last week. "Norfolk is the Navy, and the Navy is Norfolk. There couldn't be a more appropriate place for a battleship than in downtown Norfolk."

Kohnen explained that having *Wisconsin* grace

See *Wisconsin*, page 5

## CREDO, con't. from pg. 2

or work center to "promote an inter-dependent and cooperative spirit."

Compton has seen dramatic changes take place in people's lives.

"These retreats are more than merely parachutes for Sailors in peril," Compton said. "Rather, I have seen many Sailors gain new confidence as they face their futures, and gain virtual flight under their own power as they pursue greater personal and professional goals."

Compton calls his time with CREDO "the most rewarding job, both personally and professionally, that I've had since I've been in the Navy."

"An RP (religious program specialist)

can spend an entire tour at a chapel or with a deployable unit, and still wonder whether their efforts and work had a positive influence on other lives. At CREDO, we have daily affirmation of 'transformation.' Rather than change lives, we create an environment and promote a sense of community where dramatic and positive change occurs in people's lives."

Compton encourages all commands to consider using CREDO as an incentive for service members and their families. He said they could benefit from "an empowering experience."

When Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Alicia Rowinski attended a personal growth retreat

near Julian, Calif., in February, she wanted to improve her social skills so she could communicate better with people. The native of Toledo, Ohio, assigned to the 1st Marine Division Chaplain's office at Camp Pendleton, Calif., said the retreat helped her open up more to people.

"The retreat helped me to be more trustworthy with people," she said. "It improved the way I relate to people at work." Rowinski added that it was a good experience, and she encourages everybody to try it.

After attending a CREDO retreat, you might understand why some people call CREDO the best-kept secret in the Navy.

# Navy Oceanographer, The Weather Channel Sign MOU

*By the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)*

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Navy and The Weather Channel signed a memorandum of understanding in Atlanta April 13 that encourages professional collaboration between the two organizations.

The agreement is intended to foster cooperation between the two organizations and allows them to jointly examine new methods and technologies for producing and presenting forecasts. It allows The Weather Channel to use climate, weather and ocean data produced by the Navy and made available in the public domain, including data generated by the Navy's supercomputer at the Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center in

Monterey, Calif. This computer is one of the world's most sophisticated tools for global weather and ocean modeling, utilizing the largest existing real-time databases of oceanic and atmospheric observations.

For example, The Weather Channel will have access to the Navy's Coastal Ocean/Atmosphere Mesoscale Prediction System. This system is used to predict changes in the ocean and weather conditions in the highly complex coastal areas of the world, a uniquely Navy operating environment. Such collaborations will ultimately benefit the advancement of the science of weather prediction, ensuring the nation gets the greatest possible benefit from

their investment in weather and oceanography.

The agreement provides the Navy with a source of validation and feedback for its model. In addition, the Navy will gain access to graphics used for presentation on meteorological data for use in the fleet.

As executive agent for the Navy, Rear Adm. Richard D. West, oceanographer of the Navy, signed the document with Ray Ban, executive vice president for meteorological affairs and operations for The Weather Channel.

As oceanographer of the Navy, West heads a globally-distributed organization with more than 3,000 personnel and a fleet of eight multi-mission

oceanographic survey ships providing U.S. naval and joint forces integrated full-spectrum weather, ocean, charting, precise time and astronomic knowledge to minimize risk and optimize operational success anytime, anywhere.

The Weather Channel is a commercial, non-federal entity that provides weather data, forecasts and related environmental information through cable television, satellite and on-line services. It is also actively involved in a variety of community outreach activities and educational projects. The data that is provided to The Weather Channel is provided at no additional cost to the government.

## *Unitas, con't. from pg. 2*

detachments, Destroyer Squadron 6 and SOUTHCOM. The crews of the ships were eager to donate their free time, knowledge and compassion to make lasting improvements to the quality of education for local children.

The U.S. Navy's Atlantic Fleet Show Band, "La Banda Unitas," performed for more than 7,000 concert goers at several public and private appearances in Cartagena. The 14-person band specializing in jazz, swing, funk and rock performed at the closing ceremony at the Colombian Naval Club on April 17 along with the 30 musician Colombian Navy Band. The two bands traded songs in a Battle of the Bands performance. Rear Adm. Edward Hunter, deputy commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command, attended the closing ceremony as the senior U.S. Navy representative.

While in Cartagena, crewmembers visited the historic Spanish Fortress "Castillo de San Felipe De Barajas," which majestically stands guard on a hillside overlooking the city and harbor. Cartagena's best restaurants and clubs were discovered by Sailors inside the famous "walled city" in

the historic district along the north beach and inner harbor. Open-air cafes and shops line numerous plazas facing Spanish-style cathedrals, monasteries and museums built in the late 1600s.

Two of the popular souvenirs sought out by Sailors visiting Cartagena were the famous deep green emeralds and strong Colombian coffee, well known throughout the world.

During a brief port visit to the secluded islands of Providencia and San Andres, Unitas Sailors had the opportunity to go exploring, swimming, or enjoy the warm sunshine and white sandy beaches.

Through well-planned and well-executed training exercises, the Caribbean Phase of Unitas 2001 proved to strengthen the ability of naval forces to operate together as an effective multinational force. Training symposiums, crew

exchanges, band concerts and community relations projects presented opportunities for U.S. Sailors and coastguardsmen to meet new people, visit new places and experience rich new cultures. They also presented an occasion for the people of Colombia to better know the men and women of the U.S. Navy, Coast Guard and the nation.



**USS O'Bannon (DD 987) stands vigilant watch while operating in the Eastern Caribbean Sea.  
Photo by Lt. j.g. Corey Barker**



**Wisconsin, con't. from pg. 3**

downtown Norfolk is significant not only because of that partnership, but also because the history of battleships bearing the same name goes back well beyond the first days of the current Iowa-class dreadnought.

"The first battleship *Wisconsin* (BB 9) sailed around the world out of Hampton Roads with the Great White Fleet, then returned back to Hampton Roads at the beginning of the 20th century," Kohlen said. "And now this *Wisconsin* is located here in Norfolk, and this vessel was primarily homeported in Norfolk. It's fitting that the battleship *Wisconsin* come home to Norfolk to be placed on long-term display as a symbol of American naval power."

Originally designed to take on the enemy super-battleships of World War II, *Wisconsin* is the largest and last battleship launched by the U.S. Navy, and at its most recent decommissioning in 1991, it was the last battleship in service anywhere in the world.

Still a U.S. Navy asset, *Wisconsin* and its sister ships, Iowa (BB 61), New Jersey (BB 62) and Missouri (BB 63), are the only battleships in any navy capable of recall into military service.

When first launched in 1944, *Wisconsin* sported 10 five-inch/38-caliber dual gun mounts and a host of anti-aircraft batteries. But when the ship was re-commissioned in 1988, the anti-aircraft batteries and all but six of the dual five-inch gun mounts were removed to make room for Tomahawk and Harpoon missile launchers. In fact, it was *Wisconsin* that fired the first Tomahawk missile into Iraq

during Desert Storm.

But what has always earned *Wisconsin* most of its second glances are the three triple-mount 16-inch/50-caliber gun turrets. It's working with the big guns that gives *Wisconsin* veteran Seth Wilson his fondest memories.

"The greatest thrill I had was when we were off Korea, and I was up in turret three watching them load and fire," said Wilson, who served on "Wisky" from 1950 to 1954, during the Korean War. "My second greatest thrill was when I was down in main battery plot and the division officer asked, 'Can you fire the guns?' I said 'What?' He said, 'Everything is computerized so it just rolls; just press that button and it's ready.' And that's what I did — fired a three-gun salvo into Korea. It was really something."

It's memories like that that brought veterans from all three phases of *Wisconsin*'s service back to see the ship one more time, at its grand opening as part of the Hampton Roads Naval Museum. Joined by marching bands, majorettes and Junior ROTC units, more than 200 veterans who once called *Wisconsin*'s decks home marched in a full parade in the ship's honor. Just as proud to be there were those veterans who had to be pushed in wheelchairs along the parade route that ran from city hall through downtown Norfolk up to the entrance walkway of Nauticus.

While it's unlikely battleships will ever see active service again, the battleship *Wisconsin* and the Hampton Roads Naval Museum will ensure that they, and the men who served on them, are not forgotten.

**Navy/Marine Corps News**

Look for the following stories and more on next week's Navy/Marine Corps News show:

- The Navy celebrates Earth Day, showing off some of the ways we protect the environment;
- Sailors and Marines test training gear that could be out of a science fiction movie;
- USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) Sailors check out Singapore during a recent port call;
- Navy explosive ordnance disposal teams train jointly with the Japanese navy.

Compiled on tape #2001-18, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

**In Naval History**

- April 30, 1798: Foundation of the Navy Department. An Act of Congress creates the new department and the office of the Secretary of the Navy.

- May 1, 1947: The *Cusk* (SS 348) becomes the first U.S. submarine to launch a missile. The missile is a Loon, the American naval version of the German V-1.

- May 2, 1916: The battleship *Oklahoma* (BB 37) is commissioned.

- May 3, 1975: The 81,600-ton, nuclear-powered carrier *Nimitz* (CVN 68) is commissioned. America's second nuclear-powered carrier, she is built to carry approximately 100 aircraft (including helicopters) and has a speed in excess of 30 knots.

- May 4, 1904: Beginning the Panama Canal. Lt. Mark Brooke, Corps of Engineers, formally takes possession of the canal works at Panama for the United States. Construction of the canal commences almost immediately, at first using the French equipment already present, in accordance with President Theodore Roosevelt's announced intention "to make the dirt fly." The work will take 10 years to complete.

- May 5, 1961: First Man in Space. Cmdr. Alan B. Shepard Jr. reaches an altitude of 116.5 miles in the Mercury capsule *Freedom 7* on a suborbital flight from Cape Canaveral, Fla. He is picked up in the Atlantic Ocean, 302 miles downrange, by a helicopter from the carrier *Lake Champlain* (CVS 39).

- May 6, 1916: First ship-to-shore radiotelephone voice conversation from USS *New Hampshire* (BB 25) off Virginia Capes to Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels in Washington, D.C.

Visit the Naval Historical Center web site at <http://www.history.navy.mil> for more information about naval history.

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